



**NEWS
RELEASE**



United States
Department of Agriculture

Forest Service
Salmon - Challis National Forest
1206 South Challis St.
Salmon, Idaho 83467

Contact: Rudy Evenson (Fire Information)
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Comet Fire 75% Contained

North Fork, Idaho – The Comet Fire, which was started by lightning on Tuesday, July 26, is now 75% contained and has not increased in size the past three days.

Firefighters have secured the fire containment line extinguishing smoldering material 300 feet inside the perimeter. Also they are strategically removing smoldering snags within the fire perimeter to prevent them falling and rolling downhill, potentially spreading fire outside the containment lines.

Firefighters have begun suppression repair, which includes cutting high stumps to ground level, dispersing piles of woody debris, and smoothing over cupped trenches to prevent erosion.

An emergency area closure is in effect for the area surrounding and north of the fire, but all the main roads in the area remain open. The complete area closure can be viewed on InciWeb, <http://inciweb.nwcg.gov/> under the Comet Fire. Fire officials anticipate lifting the closure on Monday, August 1.

Roaring Fire- The Roaring Fire, currently estimated at 186 acres, was also started on Tuesday, July 26 by the same storm passage as the Comet Fire. The Roaring Fire is burning in a remote part of the Frank Church-River of No Return wilderness on the ridge between Roaring and Goat Creeks above the confluence of the Middle Fork Salmon and Salmon Rivers. This fire is adjacent to the 2014 Goat Fire and is being managed to allow fire to play its natural role in wilderness. It is anticipated that this fire will contribute to smoke in both the Main and Middle Fork of the Salmon Rivers depending on wind and weather conditions. At this time, this fire is not impacting river use or camps.

Hospital Bar Fire- This fire is burning on both sides of the Middle Fork of the Salmon River at Hospital Bar. Two helicopters and a crew made good progress today in suppressing the fire. The fire is estimated at 102 acres. No closures are in place but caution is advised for visitors on the Middle Fork Trail and Cow Creek Trails in this area.

##End##